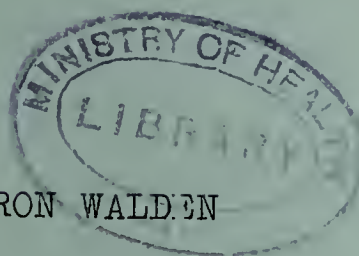
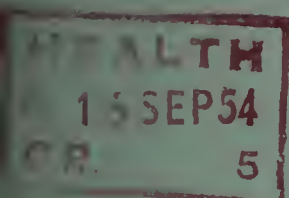


1 Mrs. Payne Dec 53
2 Library
AC 441(1) SAFFRON
WALDEN



BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

Year Ended December 31st 1953.

Irene M. Conway Hastilow. M.B., Ch. B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.Obst. R.C.O.G., M.R.San.I.

Medical Officer of Health, Saffron Walden Corporation;
Medical Officer of Health, Saffron Walden Rural District Council;
Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Essex County Council;
School Medical Officer, Essex County Council.

- and the -

BOROUGH SANITARY INSPECTOR and HOUSING OFFICER,

A.E. Greensmith. M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

PREFACE.

To the Mayor and Members
of the Saffron Walden Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, and Members of the Council,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1953.

The Vital Statistics for the Borough were very satisfactory, total Births being 129 (including 3 Stillbirths) in 1953 compared with 80 births (2 Stillbirths) in 1952, and once again the death of only one child under One Year of Age was recorded. There were no deaths of mothers due to causes connected with Childbirth and no cases of infection during the lying-in period.

There were 111 deaths in 1953 compared with 97 in 1952 but it is satisfactory to note that no death occurred from diphtheria, whooping cough, measles, poliomyelitis or any form of accident. Seven deaths occurred from influenza compared with 2 in 1952, but, on the other hand, there was only 1 death from pneumonia compared with 4 in 1952.

Only 1 death, as in 1952, was due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, (this was a patient who had moved into the Borough from another district), but 6 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified and four moved into the Borough, making an increase of 10 in the year compared with 4 (three primary notifications, one case from another district), in 1952.

It has been noted all over the country that deaths from Tuberculosis are greatly reduced while the notifications of new cases remain at a high level.

In the British Medical Journal of 14.4.54 it was pointed out that the lowest annual total of notifications recorded for England and Wales was 46,000 in 1939. This rose to 51,000 in 1941 and was still 48,000 in 1952. There is reason to believe that this high level of notifications may be due to more accurate diagnosis of cases, and research is now going on in an attempt to find out the true facts of the case.

Two cases of Poliomyelitis were notified during the year - one at the beginning of the year and one in September - but in both cases the infection appeared to have been contracted outside the Borough. The usual careful follow-up of contacts was carried out and the need for stringent precautions

impressed on them. The value of such precautions is becoming more and more evident and it now seems to be established that poliomyelitis is chiefly spread by the virus (a minute germ), being passed from the bowel by patients and contacts and transmitted to others through insufficient attention to personal and general methods of hygiene. Disinfectants rapidly kill the virus and it has been suggested that the hands should be disinfected BEFORE and AFTER leaving the toilet (to avoid infection being conveyed to door handles, etc.). It is also essential that great attention should be paid to sewage disposal and the protection of faeces from flies. This applies particularly in rural areas with no main drainage.

No outbreaks of Food Poisoning occurred during the year, but a patient who developed severe abdominal pain and profuse vomiting subsequently died in hospital and the findings of the post-mortem examination resembled those due to food poisoning.

DEATHS FROM FOOD POISONING ARE DEATHS THAT SHOULD NOT OCCUR - every single death from food poisoning is one death too many. It is only by Health Education in personal hygiene for the food handler, both within and without the home, that we shall put an end to this unnecessary loss of life, and save those who have less severe infections from much discomfort and loss of working hours.

In the past, the attention of the Public Health Department & a Local Sanitary Authority has been chiefly concentrated on the factors tending to reduce and control the prevalence of the more serious infectious diseases. With the decline in, and greater control of, these infections, it is now our duty to promote a desire for positive health and not merely seek for freedom from disease. In addition, people are now living longer and the needs of the aged, and the sociological problems connected with these needs, are brought more and more before us.

When we begin to consider the principles of healthy living, the strains and stresses of modern times engage our attention. It was stated recently in the Press that more people are absent from work during the year due to small nervous disorders than from the common cold, influenza, and allied common ills. Many of the factors causing stress are beyond the sphere of control of a local Authority, (for undoubtedly much stress is due to the uncertainties of our times and decline of belief in a personal God) but many a breakdown of personality can be traced to the constant wearing trials and frustrations of daily life, and the local authority that is trying to promote positive health must face the fact that many of these stresses should not occur in a well-regulated society. Chief amongst these trials may be cited lack of privacy due to poor housing facilities and

lack of quiet. Insufficient attention has been given to this question in the past, for well designed housing estates, sound-proofing of walls etc. etc., can do a great deal here.

It is for the large local health authorities to deal with the health problems of the individual - the school child, the expectant mother, the physically and mentally handicapped, etc., but it is for the authority concerned with environmental problems to see that the environment of the persons concerned is conducive to their good health and well-being.

I wish to thank the Members of the Council, and particularly the Health Committee, for the encouragement given me during the year and the Borough Officials for their help and assistance. My particular thanks are due to the Borough Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer for his unfailing co-operation and to my Secretary, Mrs. Ledgerton, to whose integrity, industry and good humour I cannot pay too high a tribute.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

IRENE M. CONWAY HASTILOW.

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN.
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE BOROUGH
as on 31st December 1953

Chairman:

His Worship the Mayor, Councillor F.W.Goddard.

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor G.T.Barnard.

Members:

Alderman G.O.Bradley.

Alderman E.Rooke, M.B.E., J.P.

Councillor A.Brereton, B.A.

Councillor F.C.Start.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

Irene M.Conway Hastilow: M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., M.R.San.I.

Secretary:

Mrs. M.Ledgerton.

Borough Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer:

A.E.Greensmith: M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Public Health Department,
69 High Street,
Saffron Walden,
Essex.

SECTION A - Statistics and social conditions
of the Borough.

Area: 7,502

Population (Registrar General's estimate of
resident population mid-year 1953): 7,170

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953) according
to Rate Books: 2,334

Rateable Value: (April 1st 1953) £48,101

Sum represented by Penny Rate (Year ended 31.3.53) £184

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

(corrections being made for inward and outward transfers)

	Total	Male	Female	
LIVE BIRTHS: Total:	126	60	66	) Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population.
Legitimate :	120	59	61	
Illegitimate :	6	1	5	

STILL BIRTHS: Total:	3	3	-) 17.9
Legitimate :	3	3	-	
Illegitimate :	0	0	-	

DEATHS: Total:	111	45	66) Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated population: 15.5.
----------------	-----	----	----	--

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1953

<u>Cause of Death</u>	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	0
2. Tuberculosis, other	0	0
3. Syphilitic disease	0	0
4. Diphtheria	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	0	0
6. Meningococcal infections	0	0
7. Acute poliomyelitis	0	0
8. Measles	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	2

	Male	Female
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	2
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3	6
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0
16. Diabetes	0	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	10
18. Coronary disease angina	5	4
19. Hypertension with heart disease	0	1
20. Other heart disease	6	14
21. Other circulatory disease	5	7
22. Influenza	4	3
23. Pneumonia	1	0
24. Bronchitis	1	3
25. Other disease of respiratory system	0	0
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	0
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	0	0
28. Nephritis & nephrosis	2	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31. Congenital malformations	2	0
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	0	7
33. Motor vehicle accidents	0	0
34. All other accidents	0	0
35. Suicide	1	0
36. Homicide & operations of war	1	1

DEATHS from puerperal causes:-

From puerperal sepsis:	0	
" other puerperal causes:	0	Total 0

Deaths of infants under one year of age: (Legitimate 1)
(Illegitimate 0) Total 1.

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age: (Legitimate 1)
(Illegitimate 0) Total 1

All infants per 1,000 live births: 7.9

There was no excessive mortality from any particular disease during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, and CONTROL OVER. INFECTIOUS DISEASES
Notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) notified
during the year 1953

Measles	...	...	...	...	25	(5 in 1952)
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	8	(1 in 1952)
Polio-myelitis..	...	...	...	...	2	(Nil in 1952)
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	1	(Nil in 1952)
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	5	(17 in 1952)

Diphtheria:

For the fourth year running no cases of diphtheria were notified in the Borough.

Tuberculosis

New cases and mortality during 1953.

Notifications: 6 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and 4 cases moved into the Borough.

Deaths: One death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred in 1953. (This was one of the cases that moved in from another district.)

Food Poisoning Outbreaks:

No outbreak of food poisoning occurred during the year; one case only having been notified.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases:

No serious outbreaks occurred during the year.

CIRCULARS, etc., RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1953.

- Ministry of Health Circular 2/53 1. Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health for 1952
2. Review of Certain Appointments of Medical Officers of Health.
- Ministry of Health Circular 6/53 The Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1953.
- Ministry of Health Circular. 93222/1/167. National Health Service. Outbreaks of Communicable Diseases in Hospital.
- Ministry of Health Memorandum. 94117/1/11 National Health Service. Hygiene in Hospital Catering Departments - Food Poisoning.
- Ministry of Food Circular. 3/53 Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949. Approved Oxidising & Preservative Agents.
- Ministry of Food Circular. 11/53 Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949. Approved Oxidising & Preservative Agents.
- Ministry of Food Circular. 12/53 The Prevention of Nuisance from Blow Flies.
- Ministry of Food Circular. 16/53 Clean Catering.
- Ministry of Food Circular. 19/53 The Salvaged Goods (Revocation) Order 1953.
- Ministry of Food Circular. 23/53 The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) (Amendment) Regulations 1953.
- Ministry of Food Circular. 24/53 The Milk & Dairies (Amendment) Regulations 1953.
- Statutory Instrument No. 299. Notification & Prevention of Infections Diseases.
- Statutory Instrument. No. 1407 The Salvaged Goods (Revocation) Order 1953.
- Statutory Instrument. 1821/53 The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) (Amendment) Regulations 1953.

Statutory Instrument	1876/53	The Milk & Dairies (Amendment) Regulations 1953.
General Register Office Circular	4/1953	Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health 1952. Vital Statistics.
General Register Office Circular.	5/53	Medical Officers of Health Annual Statistics.
The Central Council for Health Education.		Six Leaflets of How to Combat Dangers from Food Poisoning.
Royal Sanitary Institute Circular.		Details of New Examination in the Inspection of Water and Drainage Installations.
Letter from the Clerk of the County Council.		Civil Defence. Radiological Courses for Medical Officers of Health. Reference Ministry of Health Circular 35/52 dated 19th December 1952.
Ministry of Health. Letter dated 28-10-53		Clean Food Campaign. New Wall Sheet.

SECTION B - General provisions of Health Services for the Borough

Laboratory Service - Bacteriological Service. The district is served by the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Ambulance Facilities - A day and night ambulance service is provided by the Essex County Council. The ambulance station is at Saffron Walden and is on the telephone, but as the driver and attendant may be away from the station answering a call, persons requiring an ambulance are advised to dial '999' and ask for an ambulance. Where there is no dialling system it is sufficient to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance.

Non-emergency calls are only accepted from a hospital, a doctor or nurse, or other competent person such as a duly authorised officer of the Mental Health Service.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery - These services are carried out by the Home Nurse/Midwives resident in the Borough.

Domiciliary Visiting by Health Visitors - There is one Health Visitor for Saffron Walden Borough.

Domestic Help Service - Applications for domestic help should be made to the Area Medical Officer, Mid-Essex Division, 75 Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

Care of Expectant Mothers - An Ante-Natal Clinic is held on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday in the month at 69 High Street, Saffron Walden.

Care of Children up to school age - Child Welfare sessions are held at Saffron Walden every Friday afternoon. Children are immunised against diptheria and whooping cough at all clinics. Vaccinations are not carried out at the clinics as a routine, but are performed by the family doctor.

Care of School Children - Regular School Medical Inspections are carried out at all schools. Children are immunised against diptheria and whooping cough with the consent of their parents.

HOSPITALS.

The hospitals are managed by the Regional Hospital Boards and provide medical, surgical and special treatment. The hospitals which serve the Saffron Walden population are those

in Saffron Walden, Cambridge and Bishop's Stortford. Cases of Infectious Diseases requiring hospital care are admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospitals at Cambridge, Newmarket and Bishop's Stortford.

Chest Clinics are available for the population of the Borough. There is one at Saffron Walden General Hospital and one at Castle Hill, Cambridge.

Treatment of Venereal Diseases is provided at the Clinics at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and Haymeads Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT. 1948. Section 47.

It was not necessary to take Statutory Action under this Section during 1953.

SECTION C. - Sanitary Circumstances of
the Borough.

DRAINAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year two sets of automatically controlled sewage ejectors have been installed at the Sewage Disposal Works to take the place of the old pumping plant which was falling into a poor state of repair and efficiency. Apart from general routine and maintenance no further works have been carried out. It is still very gratifying to learn that the standard of effluent now being achieved compares very favourably with that of the past few years and that the existing systems appear still capable of dealing with the increased flow due to housing developments.

SWIMMING BATH

The purification plant continued to operate satisfactorily with the result that a high standard of purity of water in the pool has been maintained.

WATER SUPPLY

From time to time the water at Swards End, whilst passed as satisfactory for drinking purposes did not reach the high standard of bacteriological purity generally achieved in the Borough District.

A supplementary hypochlorinator was therefore installed at Pounce Hill pumping station since which time the standard has been preserved at a very high level.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance	.....	Clear and bright.		
Turbidity	.....	Nil	Odour	..... Nil
Colour	.....	Nil	Free Carbon Dioxide	.... 24
pH	.....	7.2	Total Solids	..... 400
Electric Conductivity..	595	Alkalinity as Calcium		
Chlorine present as		Carbonate	.....	265
	Chloride	....	17	
Hardness: Total..	190	Carbonate..	190	Non-Carbonate 0
Nitrate Nitrogen	.....	40	Nitrite Nitrogen ..	Less than..0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen..	0.013	Oxygen Absorbed	.....	0.05
Albuminoid Nitrogen..	0.000	Residual Chlorine	....	Absent
Metals	.....	Absent		

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals. The hardness of the water is moderate and it contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. Its organic quality is of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which, from the aspect of the chemical analysis, is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

Dated: 6th August 1953

Signed

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

The following is a typical report:

Nature of Sample :

1. Standpipe, Waterworks.
2. Standpipe. Castle Court, Castle Street.

Date and hour of collection: 18. 3. 53

Date and hour of arrival: 18. 3. 53.

REPORT

Date of Report: 20.3.53

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 2 days 37°C. aerobically - per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C.:-
Above two samples = 0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli - per 100 ml.

Other Examinations

Remarks:- These water samples are satisfactory.

Signed

R E P O R T

of the

BOROUGH SANITARY INSPECTOR

=====

For the year 1953.

=====

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1953

PREFACE.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Saffron Walden Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit this my third annual report, for the year 1953.

Housing remains pre-eminently the major concern of public health work, involving as it does one of the bases of environmental hygiene. The need for concern is shown partly in the increasing number of applications to the Council for accommodation. The analysis of the register, on page 7, shows clearly the need for the provision of a large number of "small unit" houses and flats. The need for three and four bedroomed houses having declined with the re-housing by the Council of the larger families during the past few years.

The value of regular routine sampling of water supplies and food, has been manifestly demonstrated, it brought to light very quickly a "possible" source of danger at Swards End. Samples of water showed evidence of intermittent contamination, which could not easily be traced. A supplementary purification plant has been in operation for six months, and during that time it is obvious that the purity and standard of the water supply is now completely safeguarded.

The survey of food premises has continued throughout the year, more care seems to be taken regarding the handling of food, but, it would still appear to be a matter which requires constant supervision.

The proposed new legislation now before Parliament, dealing with Housing and Food Hygiene, it is hoped will clear the way for action to be taken on matters which have for far too long been outstanding. The improvement of many sound but outdated houses seems clearly a matter which will gain impetus, and provide thereby a standard of accommodation which has long been desired and required by many. The clearance of unhealthy areas, which has been arrested for so many years, will also have to be given new life and provide for the families displaced the alternative of decent houses with the accepted minimum of facilities for washing etc.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks especially to the Chairman of the Public Health and Housing Committees, and to all Members of the Council for their help and support. The cooperation of officers of other departments has at all times been gladly given and most welcome.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A.E.GREENSMITH,

Borough Sanitary Inspector.

W A T E R S U P P L Y

Sampling of water from the public supply was carried out regularly during the year, the value of sampling and control is indicated below.

The following is a summary of the number of samples taken with the results thereof:-

Number of samples submitted for examination ...	...	...	...	60
Reported as satisfactory ...	...	...	...	48
Reported as fairly satisfactory ...	...	...	...	6
Reported as unsatisfactory...	...	...	...	6

Those samples reported as unsatisfactory, for a public supply, relate entirely to samples taken from Swards End. The Water Committee, after considering the matter, in view of the evidence of intermittent contamination, were prompt in deciding to have installed a suitable hypochlorinator, at the pumping station at Pounce Hill. At the end of the year the hypochlorinator was fitted and nearly ready for use.

It is confidently expected that all future samples of water will be reported as satisfactory, and conform to the usual high standard of the Town's water supply.

I would like to express my thanks to Dr. James, of the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory, for her help and interest in this matter, and for her co-operation at all times.

Twenty-two samples taken from the Public Baths and the Friends School Baths were all reported as satisfactory. The quality of the water in the swimming pool was found at all times to be of the highest standard.

Samples taken from other sources:

Number of samples taken ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Wells ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Springs ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Following reports on the above, one well was closed as being unfit for drinking purposes: the owner provided an alternative means of supply. One family relying entirely on spring water for their supply were re-housed by the Council during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK

Two premises are registered, by the Council, as Dairies, Two producer-retailers, selling milk within the district, are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and one Dealers (Pasteurisers) licence has been granted by the County Council.

During the year regular inspections were made of dairy premises, and regular sampling of milk supplies showed that on the whole the milk supply was being produced and handled in a satisfactory manner.

Reports of samples of milk shown not to be satisfactory, were quickly followed-up to bring to light the cause or probable cause. Results of samples submitted for examination were as follows:

Total Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
<u>Tuberculin Tested</u>							
Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Not satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
<u>Pasteurised</u>							
Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Not Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Voided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

The two samples reported as not satisfactory, were not sufficiently heat treated, although they were satisfactory in regard to cleanliness.

The County Council, as Food and Drugs Authority, were responsible for the taking of samples for chemical analysis and quality. Results of such samples are not notified to the Council.

Six samples were taken for biological examination for the detection of tuberculosis and brucella abortus organisms in the milk, tests showed the samples to be negative.

Milk bottles from washing machines were taken for examination at various times, and results showed that not sufficient attention was being paid, in some instances, to the need for careful washing. Following representations results were much improved.

ICE CREAM.

Twenty-two premises are registered by the Council, under Section 158, Essex County Council Act 1933, for the storage and sale of ice cream. Two new registrations were made during the year, one manufacturer is also registered.

Samples were taken regularly of ice cream, the results are given below:

Total number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	24
Graded I	...	...	...	...	...	24
Graded II	...	...	...	...	...	1
Graded III	...	...	...	...	...	5
Graded IV	...	...	...	...	...	4

MEAT

Over two hundred and seventy visits were made to butchers' shops, slaughterhouses, and other premises. Improvements to some premises, after representation, were made with regard to cleanliness and food storage, and the provision of more suitable facilities. All meat and meat products found on examination to be unfit for human consumption was voluntarily surrendered. Details are given below of the figures for animals slaughtered and meat condemned, all animals being slaughtered at the Government slaughterhouse. One thousand five hundred more animals were slaughtered during the year than during the previous year.

Meat inspection continued to involve many hours being spent at the slaughterhouse, and this was particularly onerous during the late evenings and week-ends.

Meat and Other Foodstuffs Examined and Found Unfit for Human Consumption:

Other Foodstuffs:

<u>Pre-Packed Food</u>					
Meat	278	lbs			
Fruit	600 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	Sausages	94	lbs
Milk	310 $\frac{1}{4}$	"	Imported Mutton	133	"
Vegetables	215 $\frac{3}{4}$	"	Imported Beef	795	"
Soup	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	Pork H.K.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
Fish	32	"	Mutton H.K.	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
Jams	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	Beef H.K.	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
Pastes	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	Cheese	44 $\frac{1}{4}$	"
Pudding	4	"	Bacon	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	"
Cream	$\frac{1}{2}$	"	Fish	140	
			38 Turkeys	491	"

The bulk of the above foodstuffs were collected and used for animal feeding. The food being steam sterilised before being fed to animals and poultry.

<u>Beef</u>									
13 Carcases	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,565	lbs	(8,641)
Parts of Carcases	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,146	"	(2,247)
Offal	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,876	"	(6,599)
<u>Mutton</u>									
5 Carcases	...	...	...	...	...	...	262	"	(652)
Parts of Carcases	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	"	(34)
Offal	...	...	...	...	...	...	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	(250)
<u>Veal</u>									
3 Carcases	...	...	...	...	...	...	125	"	(281)
Parts of Carcases	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	"	( - )
Offal	...	...	...	...	...	...	36	"	(53)
<u>Pork</u>									
36 Carcases	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,232	"	(4,613)
Parts of Carcases	...	...	...	...	...	...	806	"	(456)
Offal	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,221 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	(672)

The figures in parenthesis are those for the previous year.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned:

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number slaughtered	1115	327	2962	2004
Number inspected	1115	327	2952	2004
All diseases except tuberculosis:				
Whole carcasses condemned	6	3	5	35
Carcasses of which parts or organs was condemned	249	0	15	241
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	22.86	.91	.67	13.77
Tuberculosis				
Whole carcasses condemned	7	0	0	1
Carcasses of which some parts or organ was condemned	38	0	0	13
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.03	0	0	.69

FOOD HYGIENE.

(a) Premises registered under Food and Drugs Act, 1938

There are eighteen premises registered for the Preparation or Manufacture of Preserved Food. Regular visits were made to these premises during the year, the standard was, on the whole, found to be satisfactory. In two instances representations were made regarding the condition of rooms being used for sausage making. The occupiers carried out various necessary improvements within a short time.

(b) There are about eighty food premises and catering establishments in the district, of these twenty-one were inspected in detail. It was found that, in some instances, attention was being given to those parts of the premises used for the sale of food at the expense of rooms being used for preparation and storage. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that attention to hygiene is not a part-time activity, nor is it sufficient to concentrate on one aspect of food handling. It is only by a determined and conscientious effort, at all times, by food handlers that food poisoning, and unclean food can be eliminated or at least reduced to a minimum.

It is a fact that every case or outbreak of food poisoning could and should have been prevented. The storage of food does not appear to be given sufficient attention, and three factors, - time, temperature and moisture - are those which need proper co-relation.

A food which, has a high moisture content and is kept at a warm temperature for sufficient time will provide one of the best medias for the growth of food poisoning organisms. As, for example, -

a portion of brawn kept by a shop window during warm weather for a period of two or three days will provide a perfect breeding ground for pathogenic bacteria, especially if it has been contaminated by unclean hands. The growth of these bacteria, of course, cannot be seen by the naked eye, and such food although looking clean and wholesome, may none-the-less be dangerous.

There is, however, an apparent continuing effort to bring premises up to a proper standard, and to improve the provision of facilities. There is also a growing awareness amongst food handlers that "to look clean" is not sufficient, and that "to be clean" at all times, is the only policy. It must also be appreciated that cleanliness and food hygiene do not apply solely to food premises, but they also apply to the home kitchens.

c) Food Poisoning.

Investigations were made during the year in respect of four cases or suspected cases of food poisoning. None of the cases notified appeared to be due to local causes, and in most it seemed evident that the cases were "imported" into the district.

H O U S I N G

Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

(a)	Number of houses inspected for housing defects and accommodation etc	207
(b)	Number of visits for the purpose	409
(c)	Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	6
(d)	Number of houses (Exclusive of (c) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	39
(e)	Number of houses rendered fit, following service of informal notice, by owner	23

Overcrowding.

Only one case of statutory overcrowding was found, and was referred to the Housing Committee for consideration of re-housing. One case of overcrowding was abated, the family being re-housed by the Council.

Unfit Houses.

One area, comprising ten houses, was declared to be a "Clearance Area", and the necessary procedure was taken by the Council to secure the demolition of all the houses in the area. The demolition of all the houses in another clearance area, being dealt with just prior to the outbreak of war, had not at the end of the year been carried out.

Six houses were found to be unfit for human habitation, and were reported to the Housing Committee. In the case of two houses, the owners undertook to carry out necessary repairs and improvements, before the houses were again let. A Closing Order was made on one house, and the future user of three other houses was under discussion with the owner.

New Houses.

At the end of the year thirty-seven houses had been completed by the Council, and ten by other persons. Work had been commenced on the construction of twenty-two houses to meet the needs of Swards End and Little Walden.

Council Houses.

The total number of houses, flats and bungalows constructed by the Council at the end of the year was 518. Pre-war houses - 178, and post-war 329, (including 20 prefabricated bungalows). 9 other dwellings are controlled by the Council, including 8 hutments.

Housing Applications.

The number of fresh applications steadily increased, and at the end of the year ninety-five new applications had been made. The allocation of houses was based on a "Points Scheme" which has been in operation for two years. The following is a summary of the register at the end of the year:

Total number of applications	...	...	...	...	...	302
New applications during the year	...	...	...	...	...	95
Applications from:						
Single persons	....	....	...	...	...	17
Engaged couples	....	....	...	...	...	6
Married couples with:						
No children	....	....	...	...	...	86
One child	....	....	...	...	...	105
Two children (same sex)	....	....	...	...	...	28
Two children (opposite sex)	...	...	...	...	...	25
Three children	...	....	...	...	...	19
Four children	....	...	...	...	...	11
Five or more children	....	....	...	...	...	5
Total						302

This figure includes married couples who are expecting the first child.

The above figures are exclusive of five families living in temporary hutments, and two families living in other temporary accommodation.

It must be realised that the number of applications to the Council does not reflect the true "housing need" of the Borough. There are, without doubt, many other families living in poor conditions, without proper facilities and amenities, who have not, for various reasons, made application to the Council. Attention is being focussed more and more on the housing problem, especially so in view of the number of houses which through neglect are falling into decay and obsolescence, at a much greater rate than new houses can be erected. It is to be hoped that proposed new legislation together with existing legislation will, at least, arrest the waste of houses which could, by repair and improvement, serve many years of useful life, and at the same time allow for the clearance of the "black spots"

I N S P E C T I O N O F F A C T O R I E S

The following is a summary of the particulars of premises registered by the Council under the Factories Act, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices
(1) Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4,5,and 6 are enforceable by the Local Authority.	4	1	0
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	49	3	0
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	4	1	0
TOTAL	57	5	0

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Referred			
	Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	2	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-
a. Insufficient	-	-	-	-
b. Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
c. Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	2	-	-

R O D E N T C O N T R O L

Continued efforts were made during the year to prevent the spread of infestations of rodents. Towards the end of the year, probably due to the unusually mild weather, the number of rats infesting houses and other buildings grew to quite alarming numbers. However, some success was achieved in keeping the infestations down to a minimum.

A survey made of all agricultural land and buildings showed that, in the main, the occupiers were taking steps to keep their land free from rodents. Informal notices were served in a small number of cases, these were complied with within a short period. Routine treatments of the public sewers and refuse dump were carried out. The sewers were not seriously infested, but from time to time, the refuse dump was heavily infested.

The rodent operator made nearly one thousand visits to premises during the year, the result of these visits being estimated number of five thousand rats and seven hundred mice killed. The majority of infestations to dwelling houses was again found to be mainly due to domestic poultry keepers, who leave surplus feeding stuffs lying about in or near poultry houses.

Statutory action under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act was not found necessary.

O T H E R M A T T E R S .

Houses inspected under Housing Consolidated Regulations
 Dwellinghouses and other premises inspected under
 Public Health Acts.
 Dwellinghouses inspected with regard to housing
 accommodation and overcrowding.
 Premises other than above regarding nuisances,
 infectious diseases etc.
 Revisits Public Health and Housing Acts.

Other Inspections

Food premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	126
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	250
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

Informal Notices

Number of notices outstanding from 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Number of notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Number of such notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Number of notices outstanding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33

General

Number of samples of milk taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Number of samples of ice cream taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Number of samples of water taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	92
Number of samples of sewage effluent	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Number of premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of premises treated for insect pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Smoke abatement

Very little trouble was experienced during the year from smoke nuisance. In the case of two factories observations showed that smoke was emitted in too great a quantity. A new type of automatic stoker at one factory, it is hoped, will prevent this and also the emission of grit; in the other case, the occupiers are contemplating changing from coal fired to oil fired boilers, as being more efficient and giving no rise to nuisance.

At worst, the nuisance from smoke in the Borough is only small.

